



The NAMES OF GOD, A Bible Study for the Alabama Legislative Staff

Let's learn some more names for the one true God! It is worth repeating that an infinite God cannot be fully described by a single name. In fact, the ancient world's pantheon of false gods typically were seen as human-like, with origin stories. Not the God of the Bible, Who has always existed and has no end. Let's see what we can learn this month about our Great God!

Here is our updated tally of names covered already: #1 Elohim (God), #2 Jehovah, or Yahweh/YHWH (covenantal name for I AM, the self-existing One), #3 El Shaddai, God Almighty, #4 El Elyon, God Most High, #5 El Olam, Everlasting God, #6 El Roi, God Who Sees, #7 El Gibbor, Mighty Warrior God, #8 YHWH Yireh, The LORD Will Provide, #9 YHWH Rapha, The LORD Who Heals, #10 YHWH Nissi, The LORD is My Banner. NOTE: Past Bible Studies are posted at: <https://capitolcom.org/bible-studies/alabama/>.

11. YHWH SHALOM - יהוה שלום "The LORD is Peace"

We continue to see names combined with the name YHWH, or Jehovah. Recall YHWH is a contraction for the covenantal name of God as revealed to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3. Here we see the combination of the LORD (YHWH) with *shalom*, an especially loaded Hebrew word meaning not just peace, as in absence of war, but also general safety, friendship, and wellness. It was something you wished upon an individual and on the whole community.

But the LORD said to him, "Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die." ²⁴ Then Gideon built an altar there to the LORD and called it, **The LORD Is Peace**. Judges 6:23-24a

Gideon had just encountered God in a theophany (when God appears in human form, independent of and prior to the incarnation of Jesus), and upon that realization, he is aghast that he must now die—a very proper response to God's holy presence (see Isaiah 6:1-7). But instead, the LORD speaks peace to Gideon which calms his fears and prepares him, ironically, for battle.

We also see in Isaiah 9:6 that Jesus will be called, among other titles, the Prince of Peace, but in order to establish eternal peace He must judge the wrongdoing of our world first.

Capitol Commission state ministers are pastor-missionaries who in session teach weekly verse-by-verse Bible studies for all those in our state capitols. The Bible studies are hand distributed to each legislative office, are available online at capitolcom.org, and shared across the Capitol Commission community. This ministry is an extension of the church, seeking to proclaim the gospel message and help believers mature through Biblical expositional instruction. Prayer is foundational to this ministry, consistent with proper submission to governmental authority (Rom 13:1-7) and obedient to the command to pray for our appointed leaders (1 Tim 2:1-4). Our desire is to witness God's work in transforming hearts. [Capitol Commission is a non-political and non-lobbying 501(c)(3).]

1 2. YWHW TSIDKENU – יהוה צדקנו “The LORD Our Righteousness”

The fact that God will judge the world is a sobering one, but the additional fact He is also completely righteous means His judgments are always perfect. Rulings that are 100% just? Only God can say and do this.

In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’ Jeremiah 23:6

This scripture follows a messianic prophecy in the preceding verse about the branch of David, Israel’s great king Who will be wiser, more just, and righteous than David. Of course, the fulfillment will be King Jesus.

1 3. YWHW RA’AH - יהוה רעי “The LORD My Shepherd”

Psalm 23:1, written by the shepherd God made a king, is the most well-known passage to speak to God as a shepherd, but another Psalm gets deeper into the symbolism:

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock.

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Psalm 80:1

Only God is “enthroned upon the cherubim”, a reference to the lid of the Ark of the Covenant. As the tribes of Joseph, so are we all: Sheep. This is not meant as an attractive or complementary metaphor. Sheep are dirty, weak, somewhat dumb, and very much needy of a strong protector and leader, the shepherd. Without the shepherd’s oversight, predators would pick them off, they can perish from sickness or minor injuries, and even starve, unable to find food on their own. Thus, when Isaiah wrote, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way” (Isaiah 53:6a) he very well captured man’s situation from God’s perspective. Not a single one of us can find the way to God except for a shepherd leading us there.

Jesus looked at the crowds in the Gospels and noted the people were “like sheep without a shepherd” so in John 10 He reveals Himself as the “Good Shepherd”. When He does, He ties two very important concepts together. As a son of David, Jesus takes on the role of shepherding the people of Israel (and later that flock the disciples did not know of, the Gentiles and the church (see John 10:16)). But as David tied the shepherd role to YWHW, Jesus connects divinely as the son of God.

The most amazing thing about this is Jesus, the Son, left heaven and the perfect harmony of the Trinity to be born human. He became one of us, a sheep. But this sheep was “the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29). He was smitten, abused, and pierced because of our straying from God. As Isaiah continued: “and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:6b-7). Because He endured the cross, we may become righteous! Amazing!

Questions? Please feel free to contact me if I can be any assistance in helping your understanding of God’s Word!

Ron Comoglio – 334-476-9333 – ron.comoglio@capitolcom.org – capitolcom.org/alabama